

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. PRIOR ART MATTERS

A. The Office Action rejected claim 16 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Siegfried. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

A single prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention only if it discloses each and every claim element.¹

As to amended claim 16, Siegfried does not disclose a housing with a central axis between the front and rear of the housing and a manually adjustable trigger mechanism substantially coaxial with the central axis of the housing.

The central axis of the housing 40 of the present application is easily seen from the drawings and in addition would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art from the Specification. See, for example, page 10 lines 2-17 (“the ball housing 58 is located centrally in the release 10...”); page 15 lines 3-15 (“The threaded adjuster 52 is preferably an externally threaded tube slidably mounted on the ball housing 58 opposite jaws 30”). See also page 15 lines 16 – 27 for an indication of the meaning of “front” and “rear.”

In contrast the adjustment mechanism 72 of Siegfried is not substantially coaxial with a central axis between the front and rear of the housing. Indeed, the element 72 appears to be perpendicular to a central axis between the front and rear of the housing.

Claim 16 is therefore allowable.

B. The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bankstahl.

As to amended claim 17, the Examiner has not shown where Bankstahl discloses a means for pivoting, rotating, and tilting the jaws independently of the housing.

A means plus function claim provides the needed structure required by the Office Action.

¹ *Structural Rubber Prod. Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 707, 223 USPQ 1264 (Fed. Cir. 1984)

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 22 Aug 06

By Gerald E. Helget
Gerald E. Helget (Reg. No. 30,948)
Nelson R. Capes (Reg. No. 37,100)
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 977-8480